

**House File 549 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 549

BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 84)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to parent-taught driver education and providing  
2 for a fee.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.178A, Code 2017, is amended to read  
2 as follows:

3 321.178A Driver Parent-taught driver education — ~~teaching~~  
4 ~~parent~~.

5 1. ~~Teaching parent~~ Instruction by qualified parent. As an  
6 alternative to the driver education requirements under section  
7 321.178, a ~~teaching~~ qualified parent may instruct a student in  
8 a driver education course that meets the requirements of this  
9 section and provide evidence that the requirements under this  
10 section have been met.

11 2. *Definitions*. For purposes of this section:

12 a. *"Approved course"* means driver education curriculum  
13 approved by the department pursuant to rules adopted under  
14 chapter 17A. An approved course shall, at a minimum, meet  
15 the requirements of subsection 3 and be appropriate for  
16 ~~teaching-parent-directed~~ parent-directed driver education  
17 and related street or highway instruction. Driver education  
18 materials that meet or exceed standards established by the  
19 department for an approved course in driver education for a  
20 public or private school shall be approved unless otherwise  
21 determined by the department. The list of approved courses  
22 shall be posted on the department's internet site.

23 ~~b. "Student" means a person between the ages of fourteen~~  
24 ~~and twenty-one years who is within the custody and control of~~  
25 ~~the teaching parent and who satisfies preliminary licensing~~  
26 ~~requirements of the department.~~

27 ~~c. b. "Teaching parent" "Qualified parent" means a person~~  
28 ~~who is a parent, guardian, or legal custodian of a student who~~  
29 ~~is currently providing competent private instruction to the~~  
30 ~~student pursuant to section 299A.2 or 299A.3 and who provided~~  
31 ~~such instruction to the student during the previous year; who,~~  
32 provided that the person has a valid driver's license, other  
33 than a motorized bicycle license or a temporary restricted  
34 license, that permits unaccompanied driving, and ~~who~~ the  
35 person has maintained a clear driving record for the previous

1 two years. For purposes of this paragraph, "*clear driving*  
2 *record*" means the ~~individual~~ person has not been identified  
3 as a candidate for suspension or revocation of a driver's  
4 license under the habitual violator or habitual offender  
5 provisions of the department's regulations; is not subject to a  
6 driver's license suspension, revocation, denial, cancellation,  
7 disqualification, or bar; and has no record of a conviction  
8 for a moving traffic violation determined to be the cause of a  
9 motor vehicle accident.

10 c. "Student" means a person between the ages of fourteen  
11 and twenty-one years who is within the custody and control of  
12 the qualified parent and who satisfies preliminary licensing  
13 requirements of the department.

14 2A. License to teach. A qualified parent shall submit  
15 an application for a license to teach driver education to a  
16 student under this section. A license issued to a qualified  
17 parent shall be issued for a calendar year and may be renewed.  
18 The fee for a license or the renewal of a license under this  
19 section is fifty dollars. The fees collected for a license  
20 issued or renewed under this section are appropriated to the  
21 department to be used by the department to administer this  
22 section.

23 3. *Course of instruction.*

24 a. An approved course administered by a ~~teaching~~ qualified  
25 parent shall consist of but not be limited to the following:

26 (1) Thirty clock hours of classroom instruction.

27 (2) Forty hours of street or highway driving including  
28 four hours of driving after sunset and before sunrise while  
29 accompanied by the ~~teaching~~ qualified parent.

30 (3) Four hours of classroom instruction concerning  
31 substance abuse.

32 (4) A minimum of twenty minutes of instruction concerning  
33 railroad crossing safety.

34 (5) Instruction relating to becoming an organ donor under  
35 the revised uniform anatomical gift Act as provided in chapter

1 142C.

2 (6) Instruction providing an awareness about sharing the  
3 road with bicycles and motorcycles.

4 *b.* The content of the course of instruction required under  
5 this subsection shall be equivalent to that required under  
6 section 321.178. However, reference and study materials,  
7 physical classroom requirements, and extra vehicle safety  
8 equipment required for instruction under [section 321.178](#) shall  
9 not be required for the course of instruction provided under  
10 this section.

11 4. *Course completion and certification.* Upon application  
12 by a student for an intermediate license, the ~~teaching~~  
13 qualified parent shall provide evidence showing the student's  
14 completion of an approved course and substantial compliance  
15 with the requirements of [subsection 3](#) by affidavit signed by  
16 the ~~teaching~~ qualified parent on a form to be provided by the  
17 department. The evidence shall include all of the following:

18 *a.* Documentation that the instructor is a ~~teaching~~ qualified  
19 parent as ~~defined in~~ [subsection 2](#).

20 ~~*b.* Documentation that the student is receiving competent~~  
21 ~~private instruction under~~ [section 299A.2](#) ~~or the name of~~  
22 ~~the school district within which the student is receiving~~  
23 ~~instruction under~~ [section 299A.3](#).

24 ~~*e.*~~ *b.* The name of the approved course completed by the  
25 student.

26 ~~*d.*~~ *c.* An affidavit attesting to satisfactory completion of  
27 course work and street or highway driving instruction.

28 ~~*e.*~~ *d.* Copies of written tests completed by the student.

29 ~~*f.*~~ *e.* A statement of the number of classroom hours of  
30 instruction.

31 ~~*g.*~~ *f.* A log of completed street or highway driving  
32 instruction including the dates when the lessons were  
33 conducted, the student's and the ~~teaching~~ qualified parent's  
34 name and initials noted next to each entry, notes on driving  
35 activities including a list of driving deficiencies and

1 improvements, and the duration of the driving time for each  
2 session.

3 5. *Intermediate license.* Any student who successfully  
4 completes an approved course as provided in [this section](#),  
5 passes a driving test to be administered by the department,  
6 and is otherwise qualified under section 321.180B, subsection  
7 2, shall be eligible for an intermediate license pursuant  
8 to [section 321.180B](#). Twenty of the forty hours of street  
9 or highway driving instruction required under [subsection 3](#),  
10 paragraph "a", subparagraph (2), may be used to satisfy the  
11 requirement of [section 321.180B, subsection 2](#).

12 6. *Full license.* A student must comply with section  
13 321.180B, subsection 4, to be eligible for a full driver's  
14 license pursuant to [section 321.180B](#).

15 EXPLANATION

16 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
17 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

18 This bill expands current law to allow any qualified parent  
19 to teach driver education to that parent's child if the  
20 qualified parent meets certain requirements, including but not  
21 limited to applying for a license to teach their child and  
22 payment of a \$50 fee for a one-year renewable license. Current  
23 law allows a parent, guardian, or legal custodian of a student  
24 who is providing competent private instruction to that student  
25 to teach the student driver education, provided the person has  
26 a valid driver's license that permits unaccompanied driving and  
27 has a clear driving record for the previous two years.

28 The requirements for a driver education course taught  
29 by a qualified parent are the same as the requirements  
30 currently applicable to a course taught by a "teaching parent".  
31 "Qualified parent" is defined to include a parent, guardian, or  
32 legal custodian of a student, provided the person has a valid  
33 driver's license that permits unaccompanied driving and has a  
34 clear driving record for the previous two years.

35 The classroom instruction requirements for the alternative

1 course of instruction are substantially the same as for an  
2 approved course of instruction offered by a public school  
3 district or private or commercial driver education school,  
4 with additional requirements for 40, rather than 20, hours  
5 of street or highway driving including night driving. The  
6 course of instruction must be a course approved by the  
7 department of transportation by rule and use driver education  
8 materials that meet or exceed standards established for driver  
9 education courses approved for public or private schools. A  
10 list of approved courses must be posted on the department of  
11 transportation's internet site. In order for the student to  
12 qualify for an intermediate driver's license, the qualified  
13 parent is required to document substantial compliance with the  
14 driver education course requirements and furnish an affidavit  
15 attesting to the student's satisfactory completion of the  
16 course work and street or highway driving to the department of  
17 education.

18 The license fees collected by the department of  
19 transportation are appropriated to the department for purposes  
20 of administering parent-taught driver education.